

The Great Barrier Reef

Mark 5:21-42

"Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." - Mark 5:36

Main Point: There are barriers we erect in life that don't allow God's blessings to reach us.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Have you ever seen the Great Barrier Reef? If not, search for some images on your phone right now. What do you think?

Speaking of barriers, do you remember a time growing up when you climbed over a physical barrier, like someone's fence? Why did you do it?

In Mark's account of the gospel we see a couple of people who had some serious needs in their lives. But before those needs could be addressed by God there were some barriers that had to be overcome. As you examine some of the barriers that might stand between you and Christ, determine how you can break your own barriers down to allow the waves of God's blessings and mercy to reach your life. If we allow them to stand we may never experience the power and presence of God in our lives!

Some Great Barriers that keep Jesus at bay are:

1) **PERSONAL BARRIERS. Read Mark 5:21-34.**

How does Mark describe Jairus? How was his position in the synagogue a barrier that could have prevented him from coming to Jesus?

What do Jairus's actions tell us about his beliefs concerning Jesus?

Having a blood disorder made the woman ceremonially unclean, which was a big deal during this time. She would have been forbidden to touch anyone. (Ref Lev. 15:25-30) Why do you think she approached Jesus from behind? What might she have feared, and what did her actions reveal she believed about Jesus?

Do you ever feel like tradition or ritual is a problem in your life that prevents you or others from approaching God? Why do we sometimes feel this way, and how should we really feel?

Jesus was on a mission for Jairus when he was interrupted. What interruptions have prevented you from following God? What is preventing you from getting back on task?

2) THE BARRIER OF FICKLE FAITH. Read Mark 5:35-40.

If Jairus had followed the instructions of his friends what would have happened? What did Jesus instruct him to do in v.36?

The Greek text for “believe” denotes continued action. What kind of faith was He telling Jairus to have? Why is this so hard for us today?

Going back to v.34, what did Jesus say healed the woman? What did she believe to be true about Jesus?

Jesus told Jairus the environment necessary for Him to move was belief. Where do you need Jesus to move right now in your life, and do you truly believe He can make a difference?

3) THE BARRIER OF SUBMISSION. Read Mark 5:41-42.

How did Jairus submit to the leadership and power of Jesus in his life? What is holding us back from doing the same?

The little girl was submissive to Jesus’ command and she received life. Where are you having trouble submitting to Christ in your life that you need revival? What would it mean for you to submit in that area?

Apply It:

Judaic law specially forbade contact with blood and death. Jesus discarded these ritualistic barriers to reach those who needed help. He has given so much to reach you also...what are you allowing to stop Him? Just as the he took the young girls hand, he will take your life and revive it - if you let Him!

Pray:

Father in Heaven, bring healing to those hurting today and soften our hearts to be submissive to your will in our lives. Allow your Spirit to bring us near to you today and break down barriers.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Baptism: November 5th in Worship. Email info@blythewoodvillage.com to get more info.